

Claims

1. Method for delivering messages in a communications network comprising the steps:

- 5 - monitoring an arrival rate of messages destined for a geographical area within a short time period;
 - establishing upon reaching a threshold, a multicast group for routing said messages to said geographical area, wherein network devices responsible for delivering said messages join
10 said multicast group;
 - delivering upon establishment of said multicast group said messages to said geographical area.

2. Method according to claim 1, comprising the further step
15 of delivering any further messages destined for said geographical area arriving after the establishment of said multicast group via said multicast group.

3. Method according to claims 1 or 2, comprising the further
20 step of removing said multicast group after a predefined time period has elapsed within which no further messages destined for said geographical area arrive.

4. Method according to any one of the previous claims,
25 whereby said messages destined for said geographical area are defined each by a geographical destination address.

5. Method according to claim 4, whereby said geographical
30 destination address of said messages is identical or similar.

6. Method according to any one of the previous claims,
whereby said monitoring of said rate of arrival is performed using a soft state message counter.

35 7. Method according to any one of the previous claims, whereby fast internet protocol forwarding is used to forward said messages in said multicast group.

8. Network device located in a communications network,
comprising means for employing the method according to claims
1 to 7.

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9. Network device according to claim 8, whereby said network
device is a router or a gateway.